

e-Deliverance

A Peaceful Death is Everybody's Right

Dec - Jan

Exit International

2007 - 2008

6% Swing Not Enough to Unseat Kevin Andrews

In a campaign that grew increasingly acrimonious as election day approached, Exit Director Dr Philip Nitschke has failed to oust the incumbent Kevin Andrews from the seat of Menzies in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

The Family First vote remained relatively insignificant, attracting only 2.4% of the primary vote.

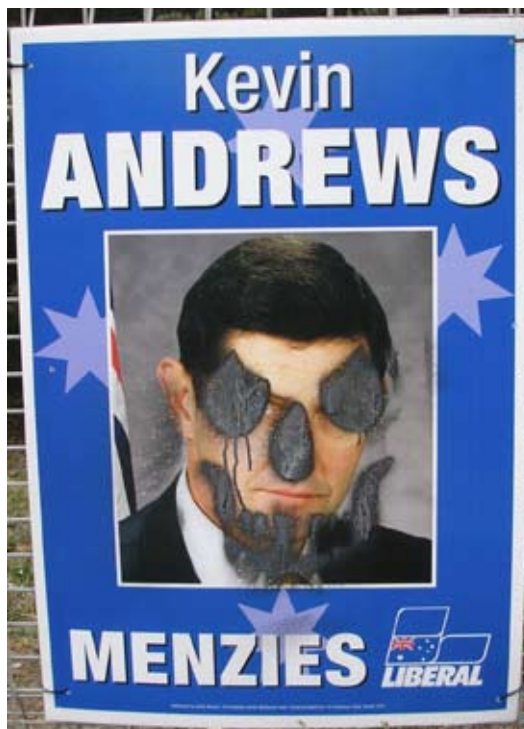
Speaking about the result, Philip Nitschke said he was "reasonably happy."

Despite mounting the most ambitious of campaigns, the 2007 Menzies VE Election bid saw Andrews retain his seat, albeit with a greatly reduced majority.

In Victoria as elsewhere there was a significant swing away from the Howard government. With Kevin Andrews experiencing a higher than average swing away (Andrews experienced a 5% swing away whereas the national swing away from the Liberal Party was 4.19%), the seat of Menzies is formally now a marginal seat; a development which will not bode well for Andrews' long-term prospects.

Attracting 3.94% of the primary vote, it was Philip Nitschke's Independent campaign that took primary votes from Kevin Andrews and the Liberal Party - in Menzies Labor attracted

swing of less than 2% (nationally the ALP obtained a swing of 5.74%). In Menzies, the Australian Greens and the Democrats both experienced a marked decline in their primary vote.



"Of course we are disappointed that there was not a more significant swing away from the Member for Menzies like we anticipated.

"We were a bit surprised actually, as we expected the significant Asian and Indian communities within Menzies to use their votes to send Kevin Andrews a message in regard to his bungling of the Dr Haneef affair, as well as his comments about immigration in general. But this was not to be.

"Menzies is a comfortable electorate and management of the economy would have figured large in voters' thinking in this electorate. Since the economy is the traditional domain of the conservative government we should not be overly surprised by Andrews' re-election.

cont p.2

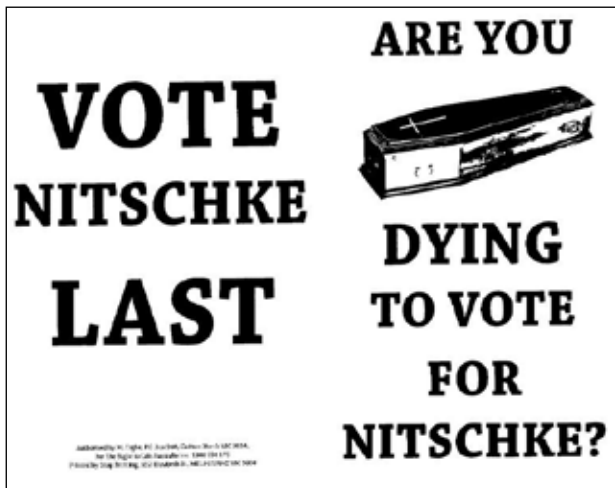


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Right to Life Australia stage Last Minute Smear Campaign on Philip Nitschke

In a last minute attempt to stymie the Independent vote, Right to Life Australia's Margaret Tighe undertook a letterbox campaign to the 40,000 homes of Menzies aimed at spreading mistruths and innuendo about In-



The Right to Life leaflet circulated in the electorate

dependent Candidate, Philip Nitschke. Large adds were also taken out in the local press.

6% Swing Not Enough to Unseat Andrews (cont)

One particularly interesting development during the campaign was the defacing of Kevin Andrews' corflute billboards. In what began as harmless drawings of sad clown faces and devil facial features (see page 1) quickly escalated into nasty racial taunts with obscenities being written and swastikas emblazoned across some of Kevin Andrews' larger billboards.

Fortunately, none of Philip Nitschke's signs were defaced although the challenge of maintaining the signs was quite difficult with only a small minority lasting more than 12 hours at a time.

On election day, further controversy engulfed the Menzies' campaign with Kevin Andrews caught red-handed at 6am by a witness tearing down Philip's bunting (plastic wrap) at the main polling booth in Menzies.

When Dr Nitschke took the allegation to Mr Andrews, Andrews replied that Nitschke "must be mistaken."

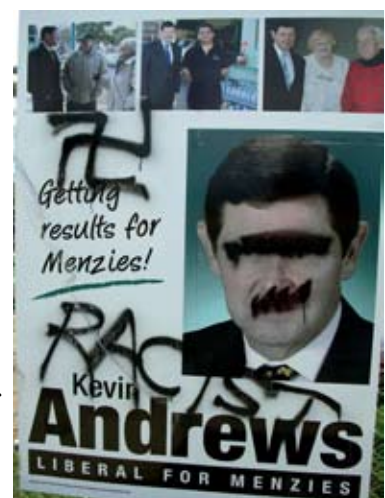
The leaflet and adds were captioned "Are You Dying to Vote for Nitschke?" and "Put Nitschke Last". The material produced used out of context media quotes and reports of Exit's activities to discredit Philip's candidacy. The aim of the RTL's campaign was, presumably, to return votes to Kevin Andrews.

On the day that the leaflet came to the attention of the Menzies team, the Australian Electoral Commission was contacted since the leaflet did not comply with AEC regulations (election material must carry a street address of the authorising person not simply a PO Box which the RTL leaflet did not). Unfortunately, being a weekend, the AEC did not take action, despite this clear breach of the Act.

While it remains unclear what, if any, impact the mailout had on Philip's campaign, the experience did show the lengths to which the pro-life lobby will go to if their 'man in Canberra' is threatened.

When the witness, film maker Joan Robinson, confronted Mr Andrews stating that she clearly saw him tearing down the bunting and stuffing it under a bush, the same reply was given; a reply which in effect calls Joan a liar. Joan has detailed her observations in a statutory declaration.

Exit is currently seeking legal advice on the incident. Preliminary legal counsel has suggested that Kevin Andrews has breached the Electoral Act; a crime which attracts a fine of up to \$5000 and 6 months jail.



Watch the February edition of *Deliverance* for more developments.

Gold Coast Chapter's Christmas Bash Heralds Tragi-Comic Theatre

While many of us in Exit have long been aware of the myriad talents buried in our (mostly elderly) members, and many others are familiar with Jill Kleinman's beautiful operatic voice, none could have been prepared for the theatre that the Gold Coast chapter turned on at their inaugural end-of-year breakup party at Pacific Fair on 29 November.

To the tune of Bill Brown's body, Jill Kleinman entertained the assembled 80-plus members with her own rendition of Bill Brown's body, a tune penned jointly with John Morris (author of 'Advance Euthanasia Fair'). Jill was supported in her singing by a specially-scripted short tragi-comic play featuring a grieving widow, sniffling mourners and singing choir boys. Congratulations to all involved, especially Elaine Arch-Rowe for her artistic direction. A career in costume design clearly beckons.

The next **Gold Coast Chapter Meeting** will be held on Thursday 24 January 2008. Please call Elaine on 0421-796-713 for details.

The next **Melbourne Chapter Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2008. Please call Rob Cane on 0423-305-788 for details.

Brisbane Chapter News

The Brisbane chapter continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Angelika Minner. Not only does this group produce a 4 page newsletter every quarter but on 7 December, Angelika took the initiative of penning an article for the website OnlineOpinion.com.au

Titled 'Rights of the terminally ill - a cause to fight for' Angelika is a powerful advocate for VE and Exit. A discussion forum is currently operating at OnlineOpinion. Exit encourages members to read Angelika's article and contribute commentary at the forum which can be found at: <http://forum.onlineopinion.com.au/thread.asp?article=6735>

The next **Brisbane Chapter Meeting** will be held on Saturday 23 February 2008.



Elaine Arch-Rowe, Jill Kleinman & Father Fred (aka Fred Short) in priestly costume



The 'Mourners'



The 'Choirboys'

Contact Us

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Donate to Exit

Exit relies on donations to fund its workshop,
private visits and R&D programs
Bequest forms can be obtained from Exit.

Exit Melbourne Office Opens

In what has been described as a much-overdue move, Exit International has opened its first interstate office in the Melbourne suburb of Lower Templestowe.

In the space that was once the Menzies Election Campaign headquarters is now Exit International's new administration centre which has responsibility for the national organisation of workshops, the Nancy's Friends network, and newsletter mailouts.

According to Philip Nitschke "we were lucky to obtain excellent infrastructure for the election campaign and it would have been a real pity to see all that let go. Equally, the election campaign showed us the value of a street front office as we made many new friends from people dropping in.

"We expect the new office to be as much a social hub for members of Exit (and the public) stopping by, as the administrative heartbeat of Exit.

Of most significance, perhaps, has been Lindy Boyd's acceptance of the new position of Exit Workshops Coordinator which will see Lindy staff the office from Monday to Friday, helped by her band of dedicated volunteers. This role will see Lindy working with Chap-

ter Coordinators (where relevant) to set out and manage Exit's national workshop (now retitled 'Meet & Brief') program during 2008.



"In recent months, workshops have been attracting record numbers and this is only likely to increase.

"The position of Workshop Coordinator is welcome and we are very, very lucky to have Lindy work with us. Her contribution to the Menzies campaign was infinite. She is a most highly organised and motivated supporter of Exit and the voluntary euthanasia issue in general" said Dr Nitschke.

The Darwin office will retain responsibility for the processing of donations.

Call for Volunteers

If you would like to be a regular helper at the new Melbourne office and meet new friends in the process, please contact Lindy Boyd. No special skills are necessary, just an ongoing commitment to support Philip and Exit.

Exit Office Christmas Hours

The Exit office will be closed for all but medical emergencies from Friday 21 December, reopening Wednesday 2 January.

Exit International Melbourne Office

Phone: 03 9850 8192

Fax 03 9850 4498

Mailing Address: PO Box 2131 Templestowe Heights VIC 3107

Office Address: 1st Floor, 16 Macedon Rd Lwr Templestowe VIC 3107

Exit Mexico Information Subpoenaed by NSW Supreme Court

In a surprise move, Exit Director Dr Philip Nitschke has been served a subpoena to appear at the NSW Supreme Court on 30 January with documents relating to the assisted suicide/ murder trial of Exit member Caren Jenning and Shirley Justin.

Dr Nitschke was about to board a flight to Perth at Sydney airport when plain clothes police from the Criminal Division of NSW Police intercepted him in the queue. Caren and Shirley's trial is due to commence in the NSW Supreme Court on Monday 5 May 2008.

Happy 97th Birthday Fred Short

On behalf of all of Exit we would like to wish our 'most senior' member, Fred Short, the very best for his 97th birthday on 14 December.

A long time supporter of Exit, Fred has seen much in his 97 years, working in occupations



as diverse as beachcomber to farmer. Originally from England, Fred has lived on the Gold Coast for the past 26 years. Fred is also a prolific poet. His new book - a selection of bush poetry - will be published on 19 January.

Happy Birthday Fred!

If anyone knows of an Exit member who surpasses Fred's seniority please drop us a line or call Amanda or Lindy at the Exit office. After all, there are not many organisations who can boast to have a significant minority of their members in their 90s.

Dr John Elliott Story Brings Dual Walkley Awards

At the annual Walkley Awards for journalistic excellence held on 29 November, Exit was delighted to see the work of one of Australia's most talented photographers, Kate Geraghty, recognised for the second year running.



Kate in Switzerland in January

Not only did Kate win a Walkley for her photographic essay on John Elliott's assisted suicide in Switzerland but she was named Photographer of the Year.

The other Walkley awarded as a result of the John Elliott story went to *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Age* journalist James Button who wrote the feature article that appeared on both papers' front page on Australia Day. Exit congratulates Kate and James whole-heartedly.

The past 12 months have been the most ambitious and busy year for Exit International. The year started with the Dr John Elliott story in Zurich in January and has ended with a highly respectable federal election result in the Melbourne seat of Menzies.

While the Menzies campaign was not successful at ousting Kevin Andrews from his safe Liberal seat in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs, we did contribute to making Menzies a marginal seat and gave Kevin Andrews a good run for this money. And we have also been heartened by the news that Mr Andrews, now seen as a liability for the conservatives, has failed to win a position on the Opposition front bench.

The Menzies campaign was a huge undertaking. Far from being a one man show, there were many people who worked to make the campaign a successful. Firstly, I'd like to sincerely thank all those in the Exit community who contributed towards the \$125,000 raised. We are enormously heartened by this level of support and Exit will continue to promote initiatives for political change and law reform on voluntary euthanasia. I'd also like to thank, most sincerely, campaign manager Lindy Boyd and Menzies committee members Rob Cane, Betty Peters and Pat Scrivenor who all contributed tirelessly towards making the campaign so effective. Others who deserve mention are our ever loyal staff Amanda McClure and Kerri Dennis, who both took on tasks for Menzies on top of their Exit work duties. I thank them both very much.

With the election now out of the way, I have turned my attention towards completing the 2007 workshop program. Between Election Day and 21 December we will have held workshops in Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and Canberra. We have also scheduled workshops to resume early in the new year with the first workshops planned for Hervey Bay on 22 January and our annual New Zealand trip following in early February.

Looking forward, 2008 will see the Exit research program move into top gear with the installation of the much needed GC-MS laboratory test equipment, essential for the next stage of the Peaceful Pill project. Much more on this in the New Year. Best wishes to all for the holiday period and I look forward to seeing you in 2008. *Philip Nischke*



Donate to Exit

WBC	R	
WBC-G	KMS	
B	DVD	
C	OTHER	

Office Use Only

I want to donate (join/rejoin) to Exit (A\$100-150 is the average annual donation)

- * **Killing Me Softly VE and the Road to the Peaceful Pill** A\$37
(by Drs Philip Nitschke & Fiona Stewart) (includes postage within Australia)
- * **Between the Dying & the Dead - Dr Jack Kevorkian, the Assisted Suicide Machine & the Battle to Legalise Euthanasia** A\$37
(by Neal Nicol & Harry Wylie) (includes postage within Australia)
- * **I Bequeath the Python** A\$15
(by Elaine Arch-Rowe & Gordon Bell) (includes postage within Australia)
- * **Menzies Election Rosettes** A\$15
(“Choice: Philip Nitschke” - purple & white) (includes postage within Australia)
- * **Exit Tshirts** A\$25
(“My Life My Choice” Sm, Med, Large, XL, XXL) (includes postage within Australia)
(please circle size)



Contact Details

First Name(s).....
 Last Name.....
 Address.....
Postcode.....
 eMail
 Age.....
 Telephone.....

Donation Options

I am giving \$
 on (today's date).....
 Visa Mastercard Cheque
 Credit Card No.....
 Name on Card.....
 Signature.....
 Expiry Date...../.....

Exit International

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2007 Menzies Campaign in Pictures



Kevin Andrews & Philip Nitschke at a Forum on the Iraq War



Anti-Kevin Andrews Protesters at the Community Forum



Kep Enderby at the Campaign Launch



Philip leafleting at Bulleen Plaza



Exit Dogs Molly & George



Philip Nitschke with a cut-out of Kevin Andrews' non-appearance at the third Community Forum



The Menzies car that was used as mobile advertising



Campaign Director Lindy Boyd with volunteer Joy Evans, folding up the bunting after the Campaign Night Party



The aftermath of bunting and corflute signs including some historical Liberal Party souvenirs

Workshops Censored by QLD Govt

In what is a first for Exit's highly popular Workshop series, in November the Queensland government saw fit to send along a Compliance Officer to the Exit workshop held at Brisbane Square Library.

Officer Tamsin Mellor explained that she was attending the workshop for the protection of "children and families." Her brief was to ensure that the 'Single Shot' YouTube.com video would not be shown.



Compliance Officer Tamsin Mellor addressing the Brisbane Workshop

have shown interest in the Workshops, none has acted on the advice of the Attorney General.

The reaction of workshop participants to Ms Mellor's explanation was one of disdain.

"You tell your masters that we may be old but we're not stupid" said new member James.

"We have lived through wars and depression we know a lot about life and we have every right to hear

The Queensland government were acting on the advice of the office of the former Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, as reported in the November edition of *Deliverance*. Although other state and territory governments

this information. You tell your masters that."

Exit trusts that with the change of Federal government that the Queensland incident will not be repeated.

Exit Meetings (workshops) Jan - April 2008

In 2008, Exit Workshops will be presented in a new format, better suited to the larger numbers who now attend these events nationwide.

In the place of workshops, Exit will hold, in conjunction with local Chapters, a new series of 'Meet and Briefs.' The Meeting part of the event will be open to the public and will take the form of an open public meeting where introductory issues associated with voluntary euthanasia will be discussed.

The Meetings will be followed by a half hour tea break which will be provided free to all participants. The Briefing section will present the most up to date information on end-of-life information such as Mexico, the Peaceful Pill the availability of Doloxene and the Helium method.

Attendance at Meetings will be limited to Exit members although interested parties will be welcome to join on the day at the door. The intention of the changed format is to prioritise the Q&A part of past workshops to ensure that

- Tuesday 22 January - Hervey Bay
- Wednesday 23 January - Bribie Island
- Friday 1 February - Auckland
- Saturday 2 February - Wellington
- Wednesday 6 February - Nelson
- Saturday 9 February - Christchurch
- Tuesday 4 March - Dorrigo
- Thursday 6 March - Newcastle
- Monday 10 March - Sydney
- Thursday 13 March - Melbourne
- Saturday 15 March - Launceston
- Monday 17 March - Hobart
- Monday 14 April - Adelaide
- Wednesday 16 April - Victor Harbour
- Monday 21 April - Sydney

the 'hard-core' practical information of workshops is the focus of all meetings in 2008.

Exit will continue to undertake mailouts for all events to members in each area, in addition to advertising locally. For workshop bookings and enquiries please call the Melbourne office on 03 9850 8192 or email Lindy Boyd on lindy@exitinternational.net